<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system that mitigates viewing offensive message content<u>,</u> comprising:

<u>   a processor that executes the following computer executable components stored on a computer readable medium:</u>

        a message receiving component that receives at least one message for delivery to a user;

        a filtering component that <u>identifies whether content of the at least one message comprises text, one or more images, one or more sounds, one or more videos, one or more URLs, embedded content, one or more attachments, or one or more applets offensive to the user</u><s>calculates a junk score for the at least one message</s>; and

        a content blocking component that partially blocks<u> the content of the at least one message by preventing offensive portions thereof from being viewed or sensed from at least a preview pane that displays the at least one message</u><s>content of the at least one message from appearing in at least a preview pane when the junk score exceeds a first threshold</s>.

2.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising<u>:</u>

        <u>calculating a junk score for the at least one message; and</u>

        a classification component that classifies the at least one message as any one of a good state, a junk state, and a middle state<s> if the at least one message is determined to be safe for an inbox but not safe for viewing or previewing,</s> based in part on the junk score<u>; wherein the middle state indicates that the at least one message is determined to be safe for an inbox, but not safe for viewing or previewing in at least the preview pane without partial blocking of content of the at least one message</u>.

3.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the <u>at least one</u> message is classified at least in the middle state when the junk score exceeds at least the first threshold.

4.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim <u>2</u>[[1]], further comprising an analysis component that determines whether the junk score exceeds <u>a</u>[[the]] first threshold.

5.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising an unblocking component that receives user input to unblock the <u>partially</u> blocked <u>content</u><s>portion of message content</s> of the at least one message in at least the preview pane.

6.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the unblocking component operates per message.

7.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the content blocking component operates per message or globally for substantially all messages.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim <u>4</u>[[1]], wherein the first threshold is determined in part by user preferences.

10.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, <u>wherein</u> the content blocking component <u>partially</u> blocks the <s>message</s> content of the at least one message <s>from appearing in at least the preview pane</s> by performing at least one of the following:
        hiding the content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane;
        hiding a portion of a subject line of the at least one message;
        hiding a portion of content in a from line of the at least one message;
        blurring a portion of the subject line of the at least one message;
        blurring a portion of content in the from line of the at least one message; or
        blurring a portion of the content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane.

11.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, <u>wherein </u>the content blocking component replaces blocked content of the at least one message with at least one of a text notice, a graphics notice, a video notice, or an audio notice; <u>and </u>wherein the text notice, graphics notice, video notice, and audio notice warn users that potentially offensive content has been blocked from view.

12.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim <u>2</u>[[1]], further comprising a challenge-response component that requests message senders to correctly respond to at least one challenge per message sent by a respective message sender when the junk score of the message sent by the respective message sender exceeds a second threshold, wherein the message sent by the respective message sender is delivered to the user's inbox upon validation of the message sender's response.

13.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the second threshold is ~~any one of~~ higher or lower than the first threshold.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the second threshold is determined at least in part by user preferences.

16.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the message sent by the respective message sender is hidden from view in the user's inbox until the <u>at least one </u>challenge is correctly solved.

17.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein content of the message sent by the respective message sender is partially blocked when the message is released to the user's inbox following a correctly solved challenge.

18.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a rating component that rates messages as unscanned before they are subjected to the filtering component.

19.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein an unscanned message is hidden from view and is not visible in the user's inbox while additional data about the unscanned message is collected or while the unscanned message is being filtered by the filtering component.

20.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein unscanned messages are made visible in a user's inbox when the filtering component is turned off.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended) A method that mitigates viewing offensive message content, comprising:

      employing a processor to execute computer executable instructions stored on a computer readable medium to perform the following acts:

            receiving at least one message into a memory;

            computing a junk score for the at least one message;

            determining whether content of the at least one message includes text, one or more images, one or more sounds, one or more videos, one or more URLs, embedded content, one or more attachments, or one or more applets offensive to the user; and

            enabling the a user to preview[[ing]] the at least one message in at least a preview pane; and partially blocking while preventing the user from sensing the content of the at least one message determined to be offensive to the user message content of the at least one message from appearing in at least the preview pane when the junk score exceeds a blocking threshold.

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising classifying the at least one message as unscanned before computing the junk score.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising updating the at least one message from unscanned to some other rating based on, at least in part, its computed junk score.

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising unblocking <u>the</u> <u>partially</u> blocked content of the at least one message when explicit user input to unblock the <u>partially</u> blocked message content is received.

28.   (Canceled)

29.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising requiring <u>entry of a</u> password to open messages associated with blocked content.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising challenging a sender of the at least one message before revealing any blocked content of the at least one message.

31-33. (Canceled)

34.   (Currently Amended) A system that mitigates viewing offensive message content, comprising:

means for receiving at least one message;

means for computing a junk score for the at least one message;[[and]]

means for determining whether content of the at least one message includes text, one or more images, one or more sounds, one or more videos, one or more URLs, embedded content, one or more attachments, or one or more applets associated with information deemed offensive to a user; and

means for partially blocking ~~message~~ the content of the at least one message associated with information deemed offensive to the user from being presented to the user when the at least one message is displayed~~appearing~~ in at least a preview pane, based on the junk score; ~~when the junk score exceeds a blocking threshold, wherein partially blocking the message content from appearing in the preview pane comprises at least one of the following:~~

~~hiding the content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane;~~

~~concealing a portion of a subject line of the at least one message;~~

~~concealing a portion of content in a from line of the at least one message;~~

~~blurring a portion of the subject line of the at least one message;~~

~~blurring a portion of content in the from line of the at least one message; or~~

~~blurring a portion of the content of the at least one message in at least the preview~~

~~pane~~

wherein instructions associated with one or more of the above means are executed by a processor operatively coupled to memory.

35-44. (Canceled)